

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated July 20, 2007. Claims 1 to 3, 5 to 11 and 13 to 18 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 5, 9 and 13 to 18 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 18 were objected to for various informalities. Without conceding the correctness of the objections, Applicants have amended claims on the basis of the Examiner's suggestions provided in paragraph 1 of the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of these objections.

Claims 16 to 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claimed invention is allegedly directed to non-statutory subject matter. Without conceding the correctness of the rejections, Applicants have amended the claims to clarify that they are directed to a program stored on a computer-readable medium. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections.

Claims 9 to 12, 14, 15, 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Without conceding the correctness of the rejections, Applicants have amended Claims 9, 15, 15, 17 and 18 to clarify the word "it".

Claims 5 to 7, 14 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 6,198,526 (Ohtsuka). Claims 1 to 4, 8, 9 to 13, 15, 16 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Ohtsuka in view of U.S. Published Appln. No. 2002/0196346 (Nishio). Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to a print system comprising an external operating apparatus, a host computer which communicates with the external operating apparatus, and a printer which communicates with the host computer.

The external operating apparatus includes an operation panel which receives a print setting instruction from a user; an operation panel controller for generating an interruption event corresponding to the print setting instruction each time the print setting instruction is made to the operation panel; and reading means for reading out image data from a storage medium. The host computer includes a receiving unit for receiving the image data read out from the storage medium; a display control unit for receiving the interruption event from the external operating apparatus and effecting a preview display in which the print setting instruction is reflected to the image data received by the receiving unit; an updating unit for updating the preview display in accordance with a change of the print setting corresponding to the interruption event received from the external operating apparatus; and a print control unit for generating print data corresponding to the print setting instruction. The printer prints the print data output from the host computer.

Claim 5 is directed to an external operating apparatus of the system of Claim 1. The external operating apparatus is connectable to a print system constructed by a host computer including at least a receiving unit for receiving image data and an interruption event, a display control unit for effecting a preview display in which a print setting instruction is reflected to the image data received by said receiving unit, a print control unit for generating print data corresponding to the print setting instruction and outputting the generated print data to a printer, and said printer. The external operating apparatus comprises an operation panel which receives

the print setting instruction from a user; an operation panel controller for generating the interruption event corresponding to the print setting instruction each time the print setting instruction is made to said operation panel; reading means for reading out image data from a connected storage medium; and transmitting means for transmitting the interruption event and the read-out image data to said host computer.

Claim 9 is directed to the information processing apparatus of Claim 1. The information processing apparatus can communicate with an external operating apparatus including an operation panel which receives a print setting instruction from a user, an operation panel controller for generating an interruption event corresponding to the print setting instruction each time the print setting instruction is made to said operation panel, reading means for reading out image data from a connected storage medium, and a printer. The information processing apparatus comprises a receiving unit for receiving the image data and the interruption event; a display control unit for effecting a preview display in which said print setting instruction is reflected to the image data received by said receiving unit; and a print control unit for generating print data corresponding to the print setting instruction and outputting the generated print data to said printer, said print control unit updating the preview display in accordance with a change of the print setting corresponding to the interruption event received from said external operating apparatus.

Claims 13, 14 and 15 are directed to methods substantially in accordance with Claims 1, 5 and 9, respectively. Claims 16, 17 and 18 are directed to computer-readable storage mediums substantially in accordance with the Claims 1, 5 and 9, respectively.

Applicants submit that Ohtsuka and Nishio, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest all of the features of the present invention. Specifically, a print system of the

present invention, which comprises an external operating apparatus, a host computer which communicates with the external operating apparatus, and a printer which communicates with the host computer, is arranged so that the host computer updates a preview display in which print setting instruction is reflected to image data, in accordance with a change of a print setting corresponding to an interruption event received from the external operating apparatus. The external operating apparatus in the print system of the present invention is arranged to transmit the interruption event and image data read out from a connected storage medium, to the host computer. That is, in the print system of the present invention, the external operating apparatus is arranged to communicate with the host computer to transmit the interruption event every time the print setting instruction is made to the operation panel of the external operating apparatus so that the host computer executes processing in accordance with the print setting instruction corresponding to the interruption event transmitted from the external operating apparatus.

In contrast, Ohtsuka discloses a print order system in which a digital camera 3 is arranged to set print conditions to be recorded as attribute information of an image in an image file, and then a user loads the image file into a PC 4. Then, the user operates the PC 4 to cause it to display the loaded image data to generate a print order file to be recorded on a recording medium 5. The recording medium 5 is then brought into a laboratory by the user, so that an order receiving apparatus 1 receives the image file 9 and order file 10 form the recording medium 5 and prints the image data 6 designated in accordance with image information 11 stored in the order file 10. In this connection, this reference teaches that the image file 9 and order file 10 may be transmitted to the order receiving apparatus 1 via a network. However, Ohtsuka provides no further teaching of specific features of such a transmission. In addition, the reference of Ohtsuka is silent on communication between the camera 3 and the PC 4. Therefore,

Ohtsuka does not disclose or suggest receiving an interruption event from an external operating apparatus and effecting a preview display in which a print setting instruction is reflected to received image data, and updating a preview display in accordance with a change of the print setting corresponding to the received interruption event. Thus, the reference of Ohtsuka does not disclose or suggest a communication system including a host computer, a printer and an external operation apparatus which function together as recited in each of the amended independent claims.

Furthermore, Nishino discloses that an image file GF shown in Fig.1 is transferred to a computer PC via a cable CV. However, Nishino is also silent on specific communication process of such transfer of the image file. Therefore, the reference of Nishino does not disclose or suggest receiving an interruption event from an external operating apparatus and effecting a preview display in which a print setting instruction is reflected to received image data, and updating a preview display in accordance with a change of the print setting corresponding to the received interruption event..

In light of the deficiencies of Ohtsuka and Nishino as discussed above, Applicants submit that amended independent Claims 1, 5, 9 and 13 to 18 are now in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

CONCLUSION

No claim fees are believed due; however, should it be determined that additional claim fees are required, the Director is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 50-3939.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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